



KŪKAʻĪMOKU

154th WING HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD | JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM



PRESERVING AF HERITAGE

- VETERANS HONORED
- HICKAM FIELD REMEMBRANCE DAY
- HISTORIC TANKER

WING PRIORITIES ANNOUNCED

OHANA, READINESS,
PARTNERSHIPS

Inside KŪKĀ'ILIMOKU

January
2020

STAFF

COMMANDER
Col. Dann S. Carlson

PAO
Capt. Justin Leong

PA STAFF
Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy
Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado
Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst
Staff Sgt. James Ro
Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz
Senior Airman Robert Cabuco
Senior Airman John Linzmeier

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- Articles range from 200 to 2,000 words. All articles should be accompanied by multiple high-resolution images.
- Include first names, last names and military ranks. Always verify spelling.
- Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference.

Photographs:

- Highest resolution possible: MB files, not KB.
- No retouched photos, no special effects.
- Include the photographer's name and rank, and a caption: what is happening in the photo, who is pictured and the date and location.

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154TH WING



PRIORITIES

OHANA
FOUNDATION
PURPOSE
STRENGTH



READINESS
COMPETENCE
HEALTH
SPIRITUALITY

PARTNERSHIPS
TOTAL FORCE
COMMUNITY
GLOBAL



Q&A

Getting to know the 154th Wing Commander Col. Dann S. Carlson

Can you tell us a little about your family?

I did spend time growing up here in Hawaii in both Kaneohe and Makiki; so, I was exposed to the importance of Ohana in the Hawaiian culture. I married my bride over 30 years ago and she is of the same mindset. We now have 4 adult kids who are involved in activities that are trying to change the world for the better. We could not be more proud of them and what they are doing. Ohana is extremely important to us.

Tell us about something that you like to do in your spare time.

When the family is around, it is spending time with them. Other than that, Sherilyn and I love the water and try to get into the ocean at least once a week. Sometimes that is just playing in the shore break, or surfing, snorkeling, or diving. That is probably why I usually look like I have a sunburn.

After retiring from Active duty service what attracted you to join the HIANG?

Truth be told – when on active duty at JBPHH I applied for an OG position in the HIANG. I've always known about the special atmosphere within the HIANG with multiple friends who have been members. While we were doing great things in my job with the Hawaii Department of Education, I missed the military environment and the HIANG offered me the opportunity to come back, initially, as a Drill Status Guardsman. For anybody who has transitioned out of the military,



they know how hard that transition is. It is great to be back in such a high performing and close community.

How do you feel after your first few months on the job as 154th Wing Commander?

I couldn't be happier! I've had the opportunity to meet many members of the 154th. The more I visit, the more impressed I am. I've also had the opportunity to interact with fellow Wing Commanders, both Guard and Active Duty, and they know that we have some great things happening in the 154th Wing.



What excites you about 2020? Can you share any goals for the wing?

We continue to improve and I want to see that continue. I'm also excited to be working with an outstanding command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr. Now that we have our team established, I look forward to getting out to more of the units, particularly the GSUs to better understand how we can support them.

Since assuming command, what have you learned about the Airmen who comprise the HIANG/154th Wing? What really stands out?

The continuity and experience that we bring to the fight is definitely the game changer. I've always heard that, but now I truly understand it. While visiting various units during their December RSD Holiday Parties, I couldn't help but notice the 'closeness' of the units; it showed the diverse 'ohana' that we have established after many years of working together.

Some onlookers may look at your priorities and find it unusual that you have placed family values ahead of mission readiness. How does that balance out?

Readiness is of course important and it is also one of three priorities, but I would argue that you can't be ready if you do not have your foundation set. That foundation is your ohana which can be your biological family but can include whichever group of people you consider family/friends.

What made you decide to make 'Partnerships' a new wing priority?

Let's face it, in any conflict or future State endeavor we will not be doing it alone. We will be partnered with other Squadrons, Joint Units, community partners or even other nation states. The time to develop those partnerships and relationships is not when the flag goes up. It is best to establish those partnerships while we are in Phase-zero operations.

What is readiness in your mind as it pertains to the wing and her Airmen?

It starts with technical competence (knowing and being capable of doing the job you've been asked to do); but, readiness also includes having all of your medical and training requirements up-to-date so we are ready to fight tonight. Readiness also includes "spiritual" readiness which means that you have a foundation and understanding of why we are doing what our leadership is asking us to do. Again, not having thought through that at game-time is too late.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY HELD AT NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC



SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS FROM ALL U.S. MILITARY BRANCHES GATHERED AT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC DURING A VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY. ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD, MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST SERGEANT'S COUNCIL PRESENTED A SYMBOLIC WREATH IN ADMIRATION OF THE GENERATIONS OF SERVICE MEMBERS WHO ANSWERED TO THE CALL OF DUTY.

Photos by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

COMMAND CHIEF TRANSITION



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst

Members of the 154th Wing Staff Agency team gather around Chief Master Sgt. Gabtser, who served as command chief for 4 years. Gabtser passed on the responsibilities of command chief to Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr. Command Chiefs serve as advisors to the the unit commanders on all enlisted matters, including all issues affecting the command's mission and operations, and the readiness, training, utilization, morale, technical and professional development, and quality of life of all enlisted members in the organization.

LEADERSHIP SHARES WORDS OF OPTIMISM



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado

"I've taken on many positions in my career, but will always be considered a 'Guard Baby,' because I've always been a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard. My first enlistment was on my home island of Kauai, with the 298th Air Traffic Control Flight. Since then, I've learned so many new disciplines in my other career fields, such as finance, communications, personnel, maintenance quality assurance and HRO. In general, I've always enjoyed being able to work closely with others. Now, I'm excited to have this opportunity to share all the expertise that I've learned throughout the years and share it with our Airmen. Taking care of others has always motivated me, and as Command Chief, I'm looking forward to accomplishing as many great things as I can in this new position."

- Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr, 154th Wing command chief

HISTORIC TANKER RECIEVES HONORS AT AIR FORCE ACADEMY

by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz

A historic KC-135 Stratotanker from the Hawaii Air National Guard completed a flyover above the skies of the U.S. Air Force Academy Oct. 2, 2019.

Tail number 60-0329 and a HIANG crew of five, over-flew the picturesque campus as part of a ceremony honoring those who served during one of America's most prolonged and costly conflicts.

During the ceremony, a plaque to remember the academy graduates who served as Stratotanker crews in the Vietnam War was dedicated.

The flyover occurred over the Southeast Asia Plaza of Heroes, a solemn place honoring the Air Force Academy's Vietnam veterans. The plaza sits on a bluff overlooking the cadet areas and is surrounded by pine and oak trees; mountains to the west provide an awe-inspiring backdrop.

Amongst the memorials of individuals and various remembrances stands a long granite wall adorned with plaques of the aircraft that were flown during the Vietnam War. Each plaque includes a description and or story of the aircraft's virtuous service in the armed conflict.

As the aircraft soared over the school and memorial grounds, onlookers could see very little that would distinguish the aircraft's appearance from most other KC-135 Stratotankers, yet it's set apart by its distinct tail number, 60-0329; the same number which was etched on the most recently revealed plaque and printed in aviation history books.

In 1967, 60-0329 and her crew consisting of Maj. John A. Casteel, Capt. Dean Hoar, Capt. Richard Trail, and Master Sgt. Nathan Campbell made the first-ever triplane aerial refueling.

That Stratotanker was then assigned to the Strategic Air Command and deployed to Southeast Asia in support of the Vietnam war effort.

Aircraft 60-0329 was on a mission in early 1967 on the coast of Vietnam and had just completed refueling Air Force aircraft when a call came through for emergency refueling of a U.S. Navy A-3 Skywarrior that had just a few minutes of fuel left.

In those days it was not accepted practice to refuel aircraft from a sister-service; but in response to the emergency, the crew would disregard the protocol and execute a maneuver never before pulled-off in aviation circles.

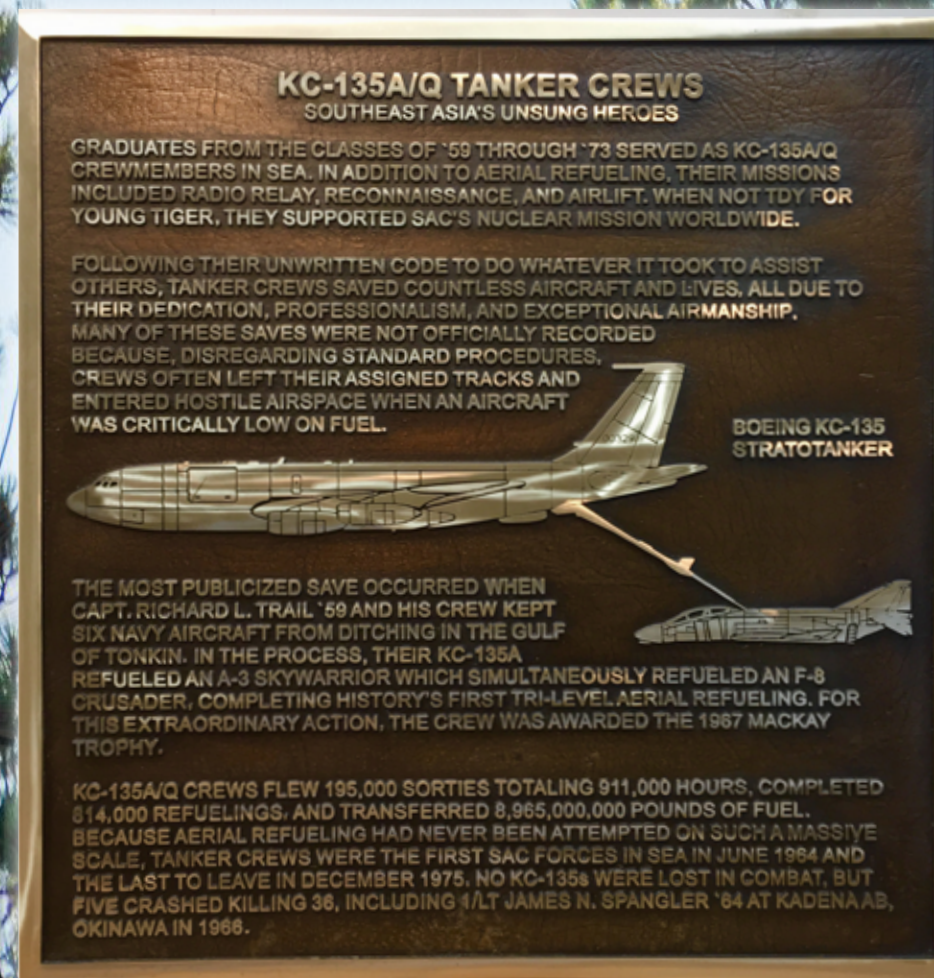
As the Stratotanker refueled the Navy tanker, a Navy F-8 Crusader hooked up to the Skywarrior to receive fuel, marking the first time in aviation history that aerial refueling had been conducted between three aircraft connected to each other simultaneously.

The feat helped avert disaster and earn the crew of 60-0329, the 1967 Mackay Trophy, an annual award given by the U.S. Air Force for the most meritorious flight of the year.

Currently, 60-0329 is still in service as part of the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron.



TAIL NUMBER 60-0329 IS THE FIRST AIRCRAFT TO EXECUTE A TRIPLANE IN-AIR REFUELING. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, ITS AIRCREW SAVED LIVES WHILE DOING SO. IN HONOR OF THIS HISTORIC FEAT, A PLAQUE WAS DEDICATED AT THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY.





204TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY



"I felt very honored to be a part of this mission and after meeting everyone (Vietnam era KC-135 veterans), I was extremely humbled by it all," said Maj. Carrie Hironaka 203rd ARS pilot and aircraft commander for the mission. "Being a tanker pilot, we all have the mindset of always just doing what needs to be done and accomplishing the task at hand."

A highlight of the mission involved the current crew from the HIANG meeting 1967 Mackay Trophy mission crew member, retired Lt. Col. Richard Trail "My most memorable experience of this mission was seeing how emotional Dick Trail was when he saw the plane that was doing the actual fly-by was the exact same plane that he flew for that Mackay Trophy mission," Hironaka said.

Crewing the "Young Tiger" on its historic flyover with Hironaka were Col. James Shigekane (Air Force Academy graduate, class of 92), Maj. Jared Raymond, and boom operators Master Sgt. Derek Wheeler and Staff Sgt. Kimo Kahalelehua. The 154th Maintenance Group crew chiefs Master Sgt. Kevin Kalani and Master Sgt. Jeff Barker ensured the Stratotanker was good to go and mission ready.

"Flying a 200,000-pound airplane 500 feet above the ground with mountains surrounding you is not something you do every day and certainly not something you even train for, so without the entire crew this could not have happened as smoothly as it did," Hironaka said. "Maj. Raymond did all the flight planning and timing calculations to a tee and with Col. Shigekane knowing the academy layout and all the landmarks in the area, all I had to do was sit back and enjoy the view!"

Planning for the flyover started months in

advance and was the original brainchild of retired Capt. David Kline (Air Force Academy graduate, class of 69). An exhaustive search for the nearly 60-year old plane eventually led Kline to the HIANG.

"The mission never would have happened without Dave Kline who over a year ago dreamed it all up and coordinated many of the details into making this happen," Hironaka said. "Only after talking with Dave Kline and then meeting everyone did it hit me how special of a mission this was."

The mission culminated with the HIANG crew receiving a plaque from Lt. Col. Trail commemorating the flyover which has now been permanently placed in the cabin of 60-0329.

"By far, this was the coolest temporary assignment I have ever been a part of," Hironaka said.

Retired Lt. Col.. Richard L. Trail, the last remaining crew member of Tail Number 60-0329's historic flight, reunited with his tanker



Photos by Senior Airman John Linzmeier



Generations of 'Pueos' and family members gathered at the 204th Airlift Squadron Oct. 5, to celebrate their 25th anniversary. Over the past quarter-century, these Airmen have delivered a unique set of war-fighting and humanitarian-relief capabilities for the state and federal government. The occasion was celebrated with toasts, war stories and static displays of past and current airframes, the C-130H and C-17 Globemaster III. Retirees and Pueo legends, such as Lt. Col. Ed Miyahira (left), shared a unique insight about the squadron's origins and progression.



WINGMEN DEVOTE DECADES TO HONOR GUARD SERVICE



Honor Guard members are charged with the distinguished task of going above and beyond the normal call-of-duty, as they represent their service branch with the highest standards of conduct, commitment and dignity. For the past 20 years, Tech. Sgt. Mark Crabbe and Staff Sgt. Darrell Bactad have carried out these unique responsibilities, making it their personal mission to honor their fellow veterans, their state and country for as long as they can.

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

Unlike the most common Honor Guard participants, who serve for a portion of their time in their twenties, Tech. Sgt. Mark Crabbe and Staff Sgt. Darrell Bactad started their time in their 30's and remained active well into their 50s. Together, they performed in numerous memorial ceremonies, military observances and community outreach events.

The HIANG Honor Guard team was first established in April 1999, but Crabbe and Bactad first became acquainted with each other as students at The Kamehameha Schools in the 1980s. Crabbe, a senior at the time, was volunteering as an orientation counselor for the incoming freshman class, which included an eager and adolescent Bactad. It was up to Crabbe to show Bactad the 'ropes' of high school life, a gesture that would be returned more than 20 years later.

As one of the few original members of the Hawaii Air National Guard Honor Guard team, Bactad was considered a seasoned veteran who guided inbound candidates and newly appointed members, to include Crabbe's entry in 2001.

Bactad developed a strong capacity to help mentor and train junior members, knowing that the original team learned how to perform and operate with minimal resources. Early practice sessions were merely based on printed directions, without an instructional video for reference. Bactad said he often looked back at his only experience at a official ceremony for inspiration.

"I remember being at my uncle's

funeral," said Bactad. "He was an Army veteran, and that's where I saw the funeral honors ceremony for the first time. I watched every movement the Honor Guard did. How they folded the flag, fired their rifles and how taps was played. I didn't know anything about the ceremony except that it meant so much to me and my family. So, I thought to myself one day, since I'm already in the military that would be an absolute honor to do. I don't know how I'm going to do it, but if there's an opportunity, I would go for it."

Only a small portion of Airmen are selected to take on the role of ceremonial guardsmen, as they are expected to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, discipline and military bearing. Bactad, Crabbe and the rest of the team were charged to represent Air Force heritage and preserve the legacy of veterans at funeral services throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

One of the most touching services Bactad participated in was the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command (currently adapted as the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) ceremonies at DV row on Hickam Air Force Base. A joint-service team from all branches receives the remains of POW/MIAs in flag-draped caskets off a C-17 Globemaster III. Bactad said the solemn ceremonies overwhelmed him with goosebumps each time, knowing that fallen warriors from past generations were finally being repatriated and brought home.

"What we do in the Honor Guard,



isn't something we do for a medal," said Crabbe. "It's just another way to give back service to those who truly deserve it most. When people realize it, everyone really has a lot to offer and there are so many ways to do it. Of course, there's a fine balance to it. I see it as a mix between family time, personal time and community service time. Personally, I don't think there's anything better than providing service to others." When family members come up to you and say thank you for doing this for their loved one, it makes us more proud to be able to do this for grieving families."

Like many units on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the HIANG Honor Guard personnel integrates with active duty partners from the 15th Wing; although there can be a noticeable difference between the two teams.

"When we do funerals with the active duty team, we're doing the same thing alongside 19 and 20-year-olds, said Bactad. They're young enough to be our kids." It's just amazing thinking about the age difference. We don't have nametags on our Honor Guard uniforms, so it doesn't matter who performs the ceremony, the main thing is we perform as 'ceremonial' guardsman; one team, one fight."

"It's definitely a wow moment for them," Crabbe added. "They're just surprised to see us still being passionate for the program. We've had so many

people come and go over the years, but for some reason, we stuck it out. And the one thing that's remained the same is our enthusiasm for this role, and it's lasted with us until today."

With Honor Guard experience under their belts, it also provided an outlet for both Airmen to serve Veterans in other capacities. Bactad took his involvement even further and sought out membership into a second unit that is unique to the Hawaii Islands - the Hawaii National Guard's Royal Guard. Members of this ceremonial unit don traditional uniforms, dating back to the 19th century, which serve to re-enact the royal bodyguards of the Kingdom of Hawaii. Bactad, and a select-few guardsmen from the HIANG, have been active volunteers for the Governor, performing at state functions since establishment in 1962. Bactad currently holds the second highest position in the HIANG Royal Guard, Luna Koa.

Eventually, Bactad arrived at a pivotal point in his military career in 2014, when he faced the option to retire after serving in the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron for 28 years. Bactad had his reservations about retiring, knowing that he would be leaving the HIANG Honor Guard team shorthanded and void of a superintendent.

Crabbe said he could see how Bactad had mixed feelings about leaving and suggested that he could apply for a

Crabbe and Bactad performing a re-tirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Darren Morris

"We simply believe in small acts of kindness without getting anything back in return. That's what Aloha is all about."

vacant personnel position within his own unit, the 204th Airlift Squadron. However, the new position came with a slight caveat.

In order to qualify for the new position, Bactad said his previous rank of Master Sergeant would need to be dropped two ranks. Despite being 54-years-old and a seasoned First Sergeant, Bactad was excited to start over again on a new career path.

"With all the things we do, we don't think too much about our age," Bactad said. "Yes, things can be a little harder on our bodies, but even that doesn't stop us. If people can just let go and forget about surface level details like their age, nothing is going to hold us back."

Not only was he able to reenlist into a new career field and retain his membership in the Honor Guard, Bactad

Guard services. They also stayed active in other community service events, such as the Special Olympics, Great Aloha Run and The Hawaii Food Bank. On occasion, they have been seen trying to raise morale for no apparent reason, such as waving and welcoming Airman at the start of drill weekends, while raising a sign that says 'Fly Like a Champion.'

Crabbe and Bactad finely tuned their own unique sets of niches throughout their careers and made sure their passions shared everywhere they went. To friends and wingmen throughout the HIANG community, it's an emotional experience to see one's career come to an end, as Crabbe officially retires this month.

While their professional partnership has finally reached an end, Crabbe said the friendships connections made in the ANG are bound to last a lifetime.



said he found a new family within the 204th Airlift Squadron and ended up traveling more than he ever had before with the HIANG.

"Being part of the [204th AS] 'Pueo' Ohana has been a definite blessing for myself to be a part of," said Bactad. "I've got to travel to New Zealand, Japan, Philippines, and Guam on our C-17 'Manu' (meaning bird in the Hawaiian language)."

Since then, the two friends worked side-by-side and continued their Honor

"We simply believe in small acts of kindness without getting anything back in return," said Crabbe as Bactad nods in agreement. "That's what Aloha is all about. It's wonderful that we got to be part of these organizations for so long because they've empowered us to reach out and make an impact on others. But when it's time to move on, it's not a problem. Because if my career has taught me one thing - there's always a way you can be of service to others. No matter what."

RIVALS TURNED WINGMEN TAKE FLIGHT



Story by Capt. Veronica Perez, 15th Wing Public Affairs

The skies aligned for two pilots and former college football players who were able to support their alma maters in a once-in-a-lifetime way on game day. Maj. Britton Komine, 204th Airlift Squadron, and Capt. Nathaniel Dreslinski, 535th Airlift Squadron, flew the C-17 Globemaster III over Aloha Stadium Saturday, Oct. 19, to demonstrate the power of the Air Force's most flexible cargo aircraft at the U.S. Air Force Academy versus the University of Hawaii football game.

It has been 15 years since Komine played as wide receiver for the Rainbow Warriors and four years since Dreslinski played for the Falcons as a tight end. As former players, the pilots appreciate the significance of their time on the field and the duties they perform around the globe.

"I took a lot of lessons learned from playing at the University of Hawaii, went through a lot of trials and tribulations and was able to get here and have a good career so far flying

this awesome aircraft," said Komine. "Part of our mission is empowering whoever we can fit in the back of our aircraft—whether it's for humanitarian relief or airborne troops from the Army, Navy Seals, or cargo and personnel, we can deliver them anywhere in the world."

Komine is assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard 154th Wing, while Dreslinski is active-duty in the 15th Wing. The units



Photos by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

seamlessly and routinely work together to accomplish the global airlift mission in the Indo-Pacific theater. Leveraging capabilities and honing interoperability to fully integrate Guard and Reserve personnel strengthens mission sets across the Air Force.

Dreslinski called it when asked who he thought would win the game before taking off for the flight, modestly choosing his USAFA Falcons. For him, flying over the game was an accomplishment for the entire TFI aircrew that shows how the Guard and active duty are on one team.

"It was truly an incredible experience to be fortunate enough to fly this line with such an incredible team," he said. "The total force integration we have as airlift squadrons is a key part in the success of our mission."

The Falcons defeated the Rainbow Warriors with a final score of 56-26, but for Dreslinski and Komine, the real victory is being able to fly along with Airmen in the world's greatest Air Force.



An aircrew comprised of active duty and HIANG Airmen performed the a total-force flyover at a University of Hawaii vs Air Force academy football game. Both pilots at the helm hailed from each opposing team.





Photos by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

December 7th Rememberance

Story by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz

Airmen from the 15th and 154th Wings, along with family members and honored guests converged at a historic site, Atterbury Circle, on the morning of December 7, to observe The Hickam Field Remembrance Day Ceremony.

This marks the 78th anniversary since a catastrophic attack, carried out by Japanese forces, had struck Hickam Air Field, among five other military installations on Oahu.



The event opened with musical renditions performed by members of the Pacific Air Forces Band. A soloist sang the National Anthem, as the 15th Wing Honor Guard Team slowly raised the U.S. flag to half-mast, followed by Hawaii Pono'i - the official song of the State of Hawaii.

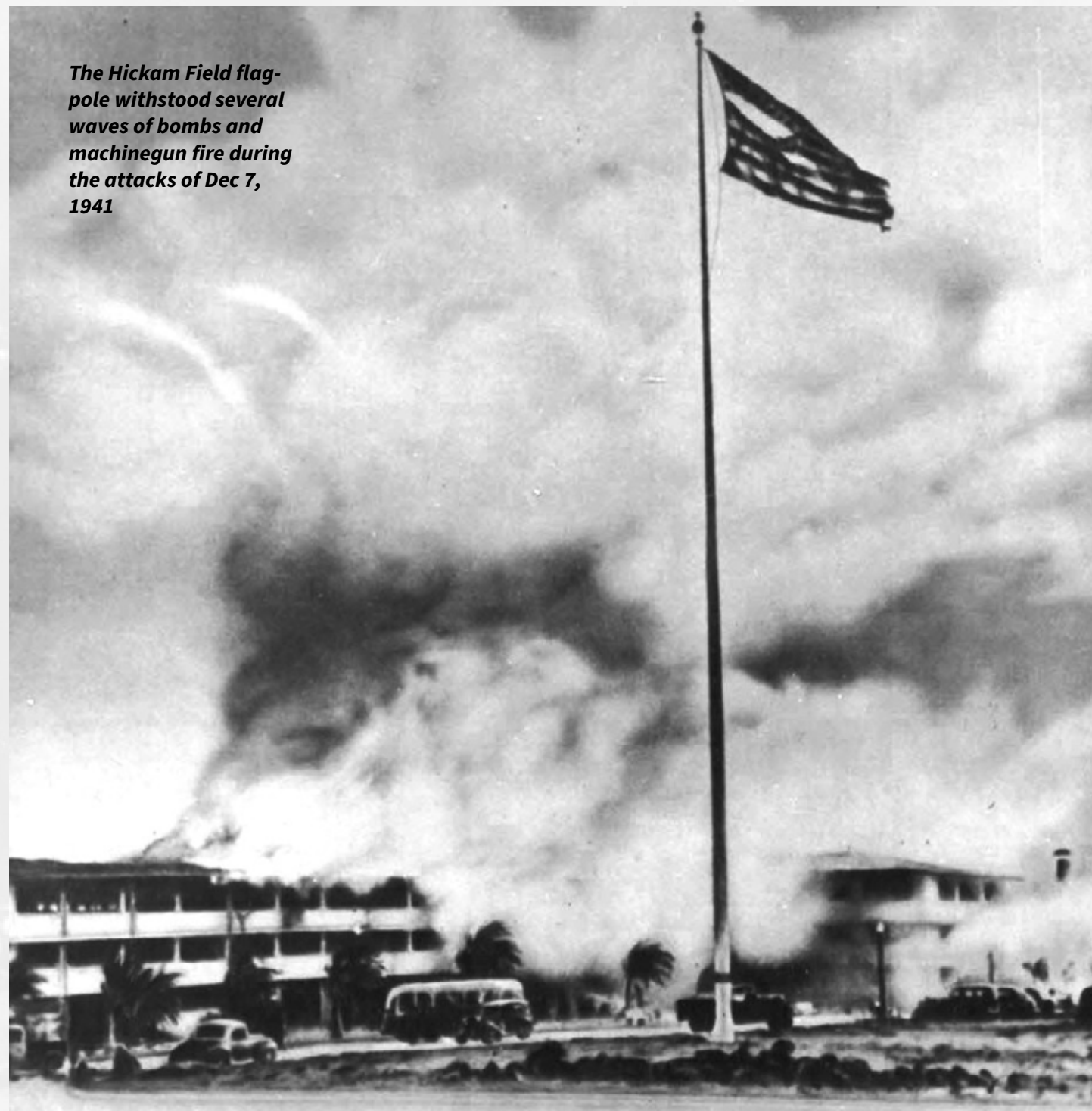
After an invocation by the 15th Wing Chaplains Office, Col. Dann S. Carlson, 154th Wing commander, stepped to the podium to officiate the ceremony. This marked the first time a Hawaii Air National Guardsman led the annual event.

Carlson recognized several of the surviving family members who attended and remain impacted to this day and presented them with history books as a token of remembrance. He also shed light on Air Force heritage, sharing stories about historical landmarks that still bear wounds from the aerial attack.

“As you drive by the [Pacific Air Forces] headquarters building and see the divots in the side of the building,” said Carlson, “that needs to remind us of the resolve that we need to maintain.”

Along with the educational commentary, spectators were provided a symbolic glimpse of Team Hickam's state-of-the-art aircraft. A formation of four F-22 Raptors soared directly above the flagpole, demonstrating the installation's heightened state of readiness, which has stemmed from the events of December 7.

Within the grounds of Hickam Field, the attacks claimed the lives of 189 Army Air Corps Airmen and civilians and injured 303 others.



The Hickam Field flag-pole withstood several waves of bombs and machinegun fire during the attacks of Dec 7, 1941

Operational capabilities were severely impacted as well, with nearly half of all aircraft being struck or completely destroyed by bombs and bullets.

The site of the ceremony holds historic significance, as bombs landed near the flag pole three times, along with a strafing of machine-gun fire. Somehow, the flagpole managed to see the battle through.

This tragic occasion was deemed ‘a date which will live in infamy,’ by prior President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As leader of a shaken nation, Roosevelt responded with a call to arms on a national scale, declaring a state of war against Axis powers. Ultimately, this unmatched effort of military might led to the liberation of European and Asian populations who had been oppressed by conquest;



More than 100 military members, veterans and family members assemble on the same grounds that were struck during the attack on Hickam Field

and it all started on December 7.

After Carlson delivered his closing remarks, wreath and flower lei presentations were made by individuals representing the various government and civilian organizations, and the honor guard team conducted a three-round volley.

While it has been nearly a lifetime since the historic attack, it wasn’t enough time to prevent

tears and prolonged hugs amongst the emotion-filled audience.

The United States has only seen devastation within its territory at this scale only a handful of times. For this reason, Carlson said it’s important for us to be reminded of events such as Dec. 7 and Sept. 11, as they are contributors to our country’s continuous resolve and readiness.

COUPLES RETREAT SPARKS STRONGER BONDS



by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

More than 20 married couples from the HIANG attended a family-oriented training event Nov. 22 – 24, in Waikiki to spend quality time with their spouse and further develop their relationship skills.

The weekend retreat, known as Strong Bonds, was hosted by the 154th Wing Chaplains Office, which organizes resiliency events several times a year.

Strong Bonds is provided to national guard families at no cost to the attendees and is designed to increase service member and family readiness through relationship education and skills training.

The event began in a spacious conference room on a Friday night, along with a few words of appreciation and encouragement from the chaplain corps and wing leadership.

“Thank you all for taking the time to be here on this weekend,” said Col. Dann S. Carlson, 154th Wing commander. “You could be doing many other things, but it is absolutely heartwarming to see how each one of you has made the choice to devote this time towards improving your relationship with your spouses; I truly believe there really is nothing more important than that.”

Participants were provided lodging, catered meals, and guided through a variety of activities. Each lesson was designed to give partners new tools to take care of one another and grow their capacity for affection, devotion and understanding.

Chaplain Leah Boling, who administrated the event, said couples learned how to better

communicate with their partners based off their personality types. Each participant completed a questionnaire to determine if they are more introverted or extroverted, providing new methods to better coexist with those who embody different personalities.

Other activities involved games, arts-and-crafts, love letters and offerings, to show care for significant others. Spouses were encouraged to gift ‘love coupons’ to each other, which can be redeemed for an act of



affection, such as a prolonged hug or a date at a fancy restaurant.

Couples were also provided a crash course on a series of massage techniques by a licensed professional, demonstrating how simple acts-of-service and support can be the highlight of their partner's day and alleviate stress when support is needed most.

Strong Bonds is endorsed and funded by the National Guard Bureau and the HIANG has been hosting retreats on a regular basis since 2005.





HIANG COMMANDER INSPECTS ROYAL GUARD

Brig. Gen. Ryan T. Okahara, HIANG commander, joined the Royal Guard of Hawaii in front of the State Capital Nov. 16, 2019, to reenact a traditional inspection ceremony. The event marked the 50th anniversary of the Royal Guard's symbolic posting at the capital. Their mandate is to protect the historical ties of the Hawaii National Guard to King Kalakaua's Royal Guard, and to serve the community as Hawaii's Honor Guard.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado



Bellator Mixed Martial Arts fighters and USO representatives participated in a base tour Dec. 17. The group cheered on several F-22 Raptors during an afternoon takeoff. After enjoying a Raptor static tour, the group held a meet-and-greet with Active Duty and HIANG Airmen at the 154th Maintenance Squadron.

Four Airmen from the 154th Maintenance Squadron were recognized by Maj. Gen. Thomas Kennett, assistant to the commander of Air Mobility Command, Dec. 20, for their support an AMC mission. Master Sgt. Dwayne Yoshioka, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lim, Tech. Sgt. Walter Chun, Staff Sgt. Ikaika Flores, provided a no-notice response for an AMC aircraft in need of repairs. Flores and Chun responded to and corrected an avionics discrepancy on a KC-135 Strato-tanker from Sioux City, Iowa. On the same day Yoshioka and Lim's hydraulics expertise was called upon to repair a boom system on another KC-135, based out of Wisconsin. With their combined teamwork, resilience and craftsmanship they were able to identify and correct show-stopping discrepancies, allowing both aircraft to carry out their important missions.



Photo by Senior Airman John Linzmeier



PROJECT PEARL: SUSTAINABLE MICROGRID TO DELIVER ENERGY ASSURANCE

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

The Hawaii Air National Guard has set off to adopt some of the most recent developments in microgrid technology, announced during a blessing ceremony Dec. 17, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

This project is a component of the Pacific Energy Assurance Renewables Laboratory or PEARL, and is designed to provide new layers of energy assurance and self-sustaining power sources to the 154th Wing.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige, along with project planners and National Guard leadership attended the event, held at the HIANG campus, where a power distribution station will be constructed and is scheduled to be operational by August 2020.

“The PEARL project is the first of six planned microgrids, which will not only provide energy assurance, resilience and cybersecurity to the 154th Wing F-22 [Raptor] campus at

JBPH-H, but also serve as a technology and business development laboratory to complete the state’s goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045,” said David Molinaro, Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies acting director and ceremony officiator.

Planning for the microgrid began in 2016, and is the collaborative result of several agencies, to include the HCATT, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the National Guard Bureau, the Hawaii Air National Guard, Navy Facilities Command and the Hawaii-based Architecture and Engineering firm, Burns and McDonnell.

The governor expressed words of thanks to each contributing partner and shared his vision about the microgrid’s potential.

“As a technology and business development laboratory, PEARL will help advance Hawaii’s shift to renewable energy, and help the diversification of

the state’s energy portfolio,” said Ige. “The lessons learned from this project, and especially about how microgrids can help provide improved resiliency and sustainability, will help to advance the state’s commitment to 100 percent, clean, renewable energy and reduce our state’s dependence on fossil fuels.”

Unlike traditional power grids, which are large-scaled and centralized, the microgrid power station is designed to receive, store and transfer a variety of localized energy sources. While the grid will initially be powered by a traditional

“Step two is to put all our solar energy, that we’re generating, and have the power and electricity stored as a backup. Once we proved redundancy and reliability of our solar capabilities, we can begin step three and, potentially, make solar our primary power source. At that point, the electricity that’s coming into the microgrid would be our backup.”

The HIANG is charged with dual-faceted roles with its commitment to conduct federal and state missions. Col. Dann Carlson, 154th Wing commander, emphasized how PEARL will help



diesel-fuel generator, the project is intended to evolve over a three-step process, aimed at making clean energy the primary source. This will incorporate previously established set of solar panels throughout the HIANG’s campus and other clean technologies, such as HCATT’s development of hydrogen fuel cells.

“During step one, we are completely focused on getting the microgrid online, as a functioning power source,” said Maj. Emilio Placencia, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy base civil engineer.

provide mission assurance through energy assurance, allowing energy to be transferred through the microgrid and directly to critical facilities when Wing assets, such as the Hawaiian F-22 Raptors, are needed most.

To honor the spiritual significance of the ceremony grounds, a traditional Hawaiian priest and island caretaker, known as a Kahu, led the various PEARL representatives in a welcoming chant, serving as a form of acknowledgment and respect for the land, commitment and partnerships involved in the project.

The team of partners were guided toward a symbolic mound of earth, where each member knelt down in unison and placed their hands on the soil. This ritual was accompanied with a prolonged moment of silence to reflect on good intentions and the project's impact on the surrounding 'Aina' (land in the Hawaiian language).

"Our Wing's history and the Hawaiian culture is one of collaboration, innovation and respect for the land and its people," said Carlson. "We see PEARL as an extension of those cultural beliefs. This is also a remarkable opportunity for the U.S. Air Force to further advance renewable energy technologies which will give long-termed benefits to the 154th Wing, the state of Hawaii, our fellow services and the nation."

*Kahu Kalehua performs
a blessing ceremony in
honor of the clean energy
initiative - Project Pearl*